



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



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Local base defender upbeat about BRAC

Web Posted: 03/31/2005 12:00 AM CST

Sig Christenson
Express-News Military Writer

A retired general charged with steering San Antonio through the upcoming base closure round gave an upbeat view of its chances, telling a group Wednesday the city is "a warfighter's best friend" and can prove it.

But a day after Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld hinted that fewer bases may be closed than some have anticipated, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. John G. Jernigan also predicted that most of the 400 installations in the United States will somehow be affected.

Up to 50 bases may close, a number far short of the 100 expected in some worst-case scenarios, Jernigan said. He added that most are likely to lose or gain troops in a flurry of realignments.

"I'll be shocked if the total number of closures comes anywhere near (100)," said Jernigan, head of San Antonio's Military Missions Task Force, which is defending local installations. "This is me being clairvoyant, so I would just say it's going to be a small number of bases that are totally unaffected — either somebody accepting missions or losing missions."

Locally, at stake in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round are 72,000 military and civilian jobs at four installations and two military hospitals. The military has a \$5 billion annual economic impact, making it the city's third-largest industry.

A fifth base closure round is nearing, with the Pentagon poised to list the installations it wants to close by May 16. As that date looms, Jernigan told a lunch crowd of about 60 at Sunset Station, bases here are in good shape in part because they meet BRAC criteria.

He pointed to Lackland AFB and Camp Bullis as places where joint training is routine, and said better use of Brooks City-Base and Fort Sam Houston has helped. "If you actually look at us through the lens of what Secretary Rumsfeld has said is important, we look pretty darned good," he said.

Texas Military Preparedness Commission member Ronald D. Henson shared Jernigan's view of San Antonio, and said bases statewide are generally in better shape than in the 1995 realignment and closures.

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, former Mayor Howard Peak, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Rep. Charlie Gonzalez tend to agree, but they aren't cocky. Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, said a good case "is sometimes not enough," while a spokesman for Hutchison, R-Texas, said she's "not taking anything for granted."

"I hope he's correct, but I do worry," said Wolff, who endured two closure rounds when he was mayor.

"I wouldn't say I'm comfortable," Peak said. "I'm pleased with our progress."

San Antonio Express News
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Observers fear as many as 100 bases could be shuttered because the Defense Department has long insisted it needs to trim a quarter of its "excess" infrastructure. That would be more bases closed than in all four BRAC rounds since 1988.

Both Rumsfeld and former Defense Secretary William Cohen, who served under President Clinton, have cited the figure. But Rumsfeld this week appeared to back away from it, saying the figure came from Clinton administration studies and added: "I don't believe I've ever asserted that I necessarily believed it, I just quoted it."

The figure is from a 1998 study and hasn't been updated. A Pentagon source it was used "because it was bantered around a lot," but conceded no one knows how much excess infrastructure actually exists.

Wolff suggested that Rumsfeld didn't want to get locked into a numbers game or perhaps is signaling that the closure round won't be as bad as thought.

Jernigan said the most important thing is to show why San Antonio's bases deserve to survive BRAC. Citing a brochure that bills the city as a "warfighter's best friend," he told the crowd "it's important we speak the secretary of defense's language. He doesn't care that we really like the military mission. He wants to know what's in it for him."



AETC News Clips

Little Rock AFB, Ark.



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General to fly new C-130J to air base

IN SHORT Despite defense cuts, LRAFB will get its second new plane, with more scheduled for May, June, October, November and December.

By **JOHN HOFHEIMER**

Leader staff writer

With Lt. Gen. John R. Baker, vice commander of the Air Mobility Command, at the stick, Little Rock Air Force Base's second C-130J should touch down on Tuesday, with five more to follow before the end of the year, according to 2nd Lt. Jon Quinlan.

Additional planes are scheduled to arrive in May, June, October, November and December, he said.

Currently the base has one J-model of its own and two on loan from reserve units.

The U.S. military already has received 50 of the 117 planes in the original order with Lockheed-Martin, but the proposed Pentagon budget would pull the plug on most of the rest, diverting about \$5 billion in alleged savings to the Army, according to Cong. Vic Snyder.

Published reports put the cost of each plane between \$63 million and \$83 million.

The Defense Department submitted a 2006 budget that phased out C-130J purchases, but the fleet of C-130s is aging without a suitable substitute in sight. Thirty of the older planes were grounded last month and another 60 were put on restricted duty.



Baker

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► C-130J

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Adding to the uncertainty, the Defense Department this week took over major acquisition responsibilities—temporarily, it said—from the Air Force.

Neither Snyder, D-Little Rock, nor Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Little Rock, would speculate what effect that change would have upon the C-130J acquisition program.

The Defense Department has scrutinized Air Force acquisitions since procurement chief Darleen A. Druyan showed Boeing favoritism, then took a job with the defense contractor. Air Force Secretary James G. Roche and acquisitions chief Marvin R. Sambur resigned over a rigged Boeing air tanker contract last year.

Then Undersecretary Peter B. Teets—the acting secretary—retired last week.

Asked if this were a power grab by the Defense Department or a way to derail Air Force acquisitions the Pentagon didn't like, a spokesman for Pryor said that was one of several possibilities.

"One (reason) could very well be their dislike of some of these programs," said Rodell Mollineau, a Pryor spokesman. "Another is (that the takeover is) a response to the way the Air Force handled the

Boeing tanker incident."

"The Air Force is without several of its top civilian leaders, and oversight has to come from somewhere," he added.

"At this point, we take the Department of Defense at its word when they say this is a temporary takeover, and we urge the president to nominate a new secretary of the Air Force quickly so that the Air Force may resume its acquisition oversight role," Mollineau said.

Snyder said he didn't know why the Defense Department took the step. But he doesn't think it bodes ill for the C-130J.

"I'm very optimistic that it's going to be retained," said Snyder. "Secretary (Donald) Rumsfeld has said very clearly that he's revisiting the decision to cut the program."

Snyder said several top Air Force generals had made very strong statements about the C-130J. They've apparently been given more the latitude to keep the plane.

"I'm confident that the J is an important part of the future of moving people and materials in the wars of the future," Snyder said.

The Department of Defense announced March 25 "that to ensure continuity of program oversight during this time of transition with a new acting secretary of the Air Force, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Michael Wynne

has designated all major defense acquisition programs managed by the Air Force and designated ACAT (acquisition category) IC programs to temporarily be placed under his authority."

Wynne will work with acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael L. Dominguez until oversight of these programs is returned to the Air Force.

Initial concern that a freeze on a new C-130J simulator for Little Rock Air Force Base foreshadowed the end of the program has eased with the knowledge that all unawarded construction contracts throughout the military apparently have been put on hold until the next round of base closings is completed, according to Snyder.

He said it was reasonable to stop spending for construction on bases until Congress decides which bases will be closed this year.

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Camp Warlord prepares airmen for battle

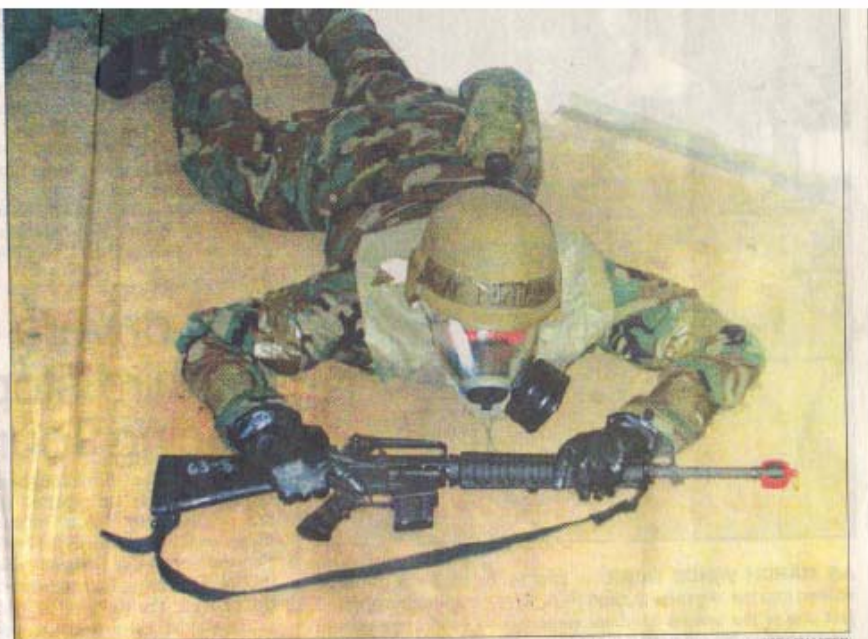
BY JEFF LEMASTER
EDITOR

Deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan looms large for many airmen at Little Rock Air Force Base, and the Air Force is doing what it can to make sure they are ready when their country calls.

About 110 airmen are attending Camp Warlord this weekend, a three day training event that simulates combat zone scenarios. The weekend involves hands-on training in reaction to a chemical attack, M-16 weapon training and convoy training.

Capt. Walter Gibbins, commander of the readiness flight of the 314th Civil Engineering Squadron, oversaw the training program. Gibbins said that all airmen who have been notified of deployment this summer are required to go through Camp Warlord.

"It's hard to simulate a hostile environment, but we do what we can," Gibbins said.



AN AIRMAN at Little Rock Air Force Base takes cover on the floor of his makeshift barracks, or "hooch," as part of a training exercise at Camp Warlord. The airman was reacting to a simulated chemical attack.

Part of that simulation is 16-hour work days, something Gibbins said is very typical when deployed.

"They're pretty ready to go home by the end of it," said Lt. Jon Quinlan, a spokesman for the 314th Airlift Wing.

Training at Camp Warlord began in 2002, and has changed over the past three years.

"We've adapted the training based on reports from our troops coming back from Iraq," Gibbins said.

Lt. Col. Geoff Ellazar, the de-

ployed commander of the airmen training this weekend, said that the entire exercise is based on the premise of being in Iraq. The airmen training, he said, are not necessarily from the same agencies at the base, thus forcing airmen

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CAMP

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from different backgrounds to work together.

"That's typical of deployment," Ellazar said. "You're working with troops from different parts of the country and even different countries. You have to build teamwork in a hurry. Everyone needs to have some common level of readiness."

Friday's training focused on readiness and reaction to a nuclear/chemical attack, Ellazar said

that the airmen were instructed to treat self-preservation and accounting for each other as the top priorities after a chemical attack. Once proper protective equipment is in place and intelligence confirms that the attack is over, teams of two or three do a sweep of the area, looking for undetonated ordnance as well as clues as to what type of chemical attack had occurred.

Training at Camp Warlord will continue periodically throughout the year. The next training weekend is scheduled for the first weekend in April.



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Senate confirms general on base

The U.S. Senate has confirmed the promotion of Col. Joseph M. Reheiser, commander of the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, to brigadier general.

"I'm extremely honored and humbled to have been confirmed for promotion to brigadier general," Reheiser said.

"This promotion is not about me, but about the tremendously talented people I've worked with throughout the past 27 years," he continued. "From airmen to Department of Defense employees, I couldn't have gotten to this point in my career without their professionalism, support and dedication. I thank all of them for helping me achieve this career milestone — they share equally in this promotion with me."



Reheiser

Reheiser has been commander at Little Rock Air Force

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► General

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Base since September 2003.

He attended Cabot High School in the 1970s, when his father, also named Joseph, was stationed at the base here. His father retired as a master sergeant in 1973. Young Reheiser graduated from Cabot High School in 1974.

He is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours in numerous mobility aircraft, including the C-130, C-141, C-17, C-21 and C-9.

Reheiser graduated from the

Air Force Academy in 1978 with a bachelor of science degree in engineering mechanics and later earned a master of arts degree in business administration from Webster University in 1985.

His operational assignments include tours as commander of the 14th Airlift Squadron, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, and the 86th Operations Group, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Reheiser's career highlights include commanding the first C-17 deployment providing the airlift to implement the Dayton Peace Accords in the Balkans. During Operation Allied Force, his opera-

tions group of over 60 aircraft flew more than 3,000 successful combat missions supporting the air war over Serbia.

In October 1999, he led the first combat airdrop in Europe since the Second World War as part of Operation Rapid Guardian.

Before taking command at Little Rock Air Force Base, Reheiser was the assistant director of Air and Space Operations at U.S. Air Force headquarters in Europe at Ramstein Air Base.

The Drop Zone newspaper at Little Rock Air Force Base contributed to this report.



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Wednesday, March 23, 2005

TOP STORY>> Military looks to close bases

LRAFB in good shape as another BRAC review gets underway

By JOHN HOFHEIMER
Leader staff writer

Little Rock Air Force Base is well positioned to survive the next wave of base closings, officials say, but still...

The economic impact of Little Rock Air Force Base at Jacksonville upon central Arkansas in 2004 was over half a billion dollars, according to information released earlier this month, and the thought of losing the base could drive leaders into a cold sweat.

By May 16, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld should have submitted his list of recommended closings to the Base Realignment and Closure (Brac) commission, with the commission's final list due by Sept. 8.

The president and Congress then have until Nov. 7 to accept or reject the list, and communities across the country are waiting to see who's on that list.

"I believe that Little Rock Air Force Base is in great shape as we head into this new round of base closings," Cong. Vic Snyder said Tuesday.

"The dedication of the new fire station on Monday is another example of the tremendous investment that has been made in the last few years. There is great community support for this base of which the Air Force is very much aware.

"I am also very pleased that former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi has been named head of the (Brac) commission. He is a Vietnam veteran and a fine man, a real straight-shooter known for his sense of fair-play," Snyder said. "Everybody says Little Rock Air Force Base is safe," said Sen. Mark Pryor on the 50th anniversary of the base.

Cautioning against too much optimism, Pryor said, "That scares me. We'll redouble our efforts to promote the base. People at the Air Force and Pentagon say the base is in good shape. It has a proven track record. But I'll continue to push behind the scenes."

"I don't want to seem over confident, but we can compete with any base in the world," said Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Swaim Monday at the dedication of the base's new fire station. He's serving his second term as head of the base Community Council. "We'll score high."

Swaim said a number of states, including Florida, California and Mississippi, had hired lobbyists, including former military and former congressmen. To help keep its bases, Mississippi has spent \$900,000, the mayor said.

While others had hired expensive lobbyists, Swaim said he and three or four others had traveled a lot of miles the last couple of years promoting the base.

"We have good contacts. We felt that because we know officials, we know how to sell the base. Others active in pressing the base's case include Larry Wilson, Paul Latture and Carmie Henry, Swaim said.

The base's unique role as trainer of all U.S. military C-130 pilots, crews and ground-crews would seem to ensure its continued existence, they say.

In recent years, the Air Force has spent millions of dollars preparing the base to also train crews for the new C-130J. In fact, the C-130J training center alone cost about \$50 million.

Although the government may not buy any more of the new aircraft, people still have to fly and maintain those already purchased.

Over four previous rounds of closings, dating back to 1988, 97 bases have been closed, along with hundreds of smaller facilities, yielding savings of nearly \$30 billion through 2003, according to a report in the New York Times.

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Arkansas Times (Little Rock)

Published Monday, March 28, 2005 - 10:36:45 AM

Plane problems?

We told you recently about problems with the new version of the C-130 workhorse cargo aircraft, around which Little Rock Air Force Base is built. The new version, the C-130J, is a lemon, many believe. LRAFB fought hard to provide training for the new plane, as well as being the chief training ground for pilots of the older model.

Could problems with the new plane be why a \$5 to \$10 million addition to a training simulator for the 130-J at LRAFB has been postponed? Bids were solicited in February, but the project was postponed last Friday. We're asking.

UPDATE: Now word comes from U.S. Rep. Vic Snyder. He says the postponement is part of a military-wide postponement of projects that have not yet been bid until after recommendations of a base realignment and closure commission May 16.

He adds, too, that the Air Force has a far higher opinion of the C-130J than some recent news articles have reflected. It's performing with high ratings in Iraq, Snyder said, and the Air Force chief of staff defended it stoutly in response to questions as recently as March 16.

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Moody AFB, Ga.



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Planning officials taking a look at what's near Moody

Author: Grace Agostin
Publication Date: 2005-03-28

VALDOSTA - The three letters signal a warning each time. Among the dozens of zoning district codes on a rezoning request report, the acronym MAZ alerts officials to give careful consideration to the application.

Whether it's a request to develop land commercially or to divide the property, the letters MAZ warn officials that the land is located within the Moody Activity Zone.

As cases like these arise, the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission is advised to consider any encroachment on Moody Air Force Base that may result by recommending approval.

With encroachment as one of the top factors looked at when it comes to Base Realignment and Closure, officials must consider not only development but airspace.

Because the commission is a recommending body, members give careful consideration to cases where cell phone towers may be placed near the base or rezoning for residential land use, which could result in noise complaints.

But besides the round of BRAC that is approaching, the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission is beginning to look at how to protect land surrounding Moody for the next several years.

The board has already begun that process by reviewing its future land use map in comparison to Moody's flight tracking maps. The maps detail Moody's Activity Zone, noise contours, accident potential zones and flight patterns against future zoning and land use expected near such areas.

"One of the first things that struck my mind was how much bigger (the Moody Activity Zone) is than I originally thought," said Jason Davenport, associate planner for the South Georgia Regional Development Center.

As the board and staff reviewed maps Monday, they noticed an increased amount of residential use depicted in the future land use maps. The dense residential development bumps against the west side of Moody's planning buffer with some properties coming within the Moody Activity Zone.

"There's a huge discrepancy between what the comprehensive plan says and what Moody needs," said Anne-Marie Wolff, associate planner.

With the RDC and planning commission set to work on the 2025 Lowndes Greater

Comprehensive Plan, known as the "road map" for the county's future, Wolff said there is an opportunity to prevent dense development near Moody.

"Every case that's within the Moody Activity Zone, the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission and Moody are notified," Wolff said. "Some possible solutions are potential rezonings and changing the depiction of the future land use maps."

For Maj. Dann Carlson, instructor pilot in the 435th Flying Training Squadron, residential land use too

Valdosta Daily Times

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Moody AFB, Ga.



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close to Moody could impact flight schedules.

"As far as an aviator's concerned, all of that could end up affecting us," Carlson said. "But we hope that it wouldn't."

Currently, Carlson said Moody offers a convenient schedule for pilots that allows for nighttime flying operations as well.

"There's probably no easier place to schedule," Carlson said. "For training, we get the best bang for the buck, the fact that we can get so quickly to airspace. It's a great location, and Moody has done a great job of keeping it that way."

At some bases, Carlson said, close development near the base requires pilots to fly out sometimes 100 miles in order to get to airspace that is free of encroachment.

"That leaves less fuel and less time in the area for training," Carlson said. "The air-to-ground range with Grand Bay only two to three miles east of us isn't heard of in the Air Force that often. Between 1992 and '95, the airspace has not really changed a lot and it's a lot better than any other place I've been."

Part of protecting air space for the Air Force is done through an Air Installation Compatible Use Zone. The AICUZ study is aimed to involve nearby communities when it comes to land use planning and zoning actions that could affect flying missions. The AICUZ examines noise, accident potential zones, existing land use and proposed development near bases.

Lowndes County has adopted the AICUZ study and is alerted regarding development not only within the Moody Activity Zone but near zones that would create encroachment. Currently, Moody has minor encroachment with some residential subdivisions within a 3,000 by 5,000 foot area known as accident potential Zone 1, which extends from each runway. APZ1 contains some residential subdivisions and has seen an increase in mobile homes in recent years. The accident potential Zone 2 is a 3,000 by 7,000 foot space that extends from APZ1 and contains subdivisions as well, but future development along Knights Academy Road is expected to be monitored for future development.

At a recent Greater Lowndes Planning Commission work session, Davenport alerted members of a 5 acre parcel with a request for suburban agricultural zoning and plans to subdivide the property.

While the residences are located outside Moody's sound zone and crash zone, Davenport alerted members it was in the Moody Activity Zone.

These types of warnings, Carlson said can help protect Moody's future missions.

"It's great they're looking into the future and aware of those things could affect operations in the future," Carlson said. "As far as the community here, they've done a great job in looking at that and continuing to look into it to try and keep that encroachment down."

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AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



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Leaders optimistic about city growth Future of state, local education systems remain uncertain

**By Ann Work/Times Record News
March 30, 2005**

The part of the Wichita Falls economic picture that depends on Sheppard Air Force Base is flying high, but anything connected with schools is in a holding pattern, area leaders said Tuesday.

Three community leaders - Tim Chase, president and CEO of the Wichita Falls Board of Commerce & Industry, Darrell Coleman, Times Record News publisher, and Dr. Dawson Orr, superintendent of the Wichita Falls Independent School District - gave their takes on prospects for growth in Wichita Falls.

They spoke Tuesday to the Wichita Falls Association of Realtors.

Both Coleman and Chase keep a watchful eye on progress at Sheppard Air Force Base, believing that to be a barometer of the city's future.

The continued success of its Euro Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training program, which provides jet pilot training for airmen from 13 nations, bodes well for Wichita Falls, Coleman said.

So does massive spending on the F/A-22 Raptor.

Last year, the Pentagon allocated \$22 million to build a Raptor weaponry and maintenance training facility at Sheppard. An expensive fleet of Raptors is expected to replace aging F-15 fighter jets.

The flurry of current activity will probably draw more of the same in years to come, Coleman said. "I think Sheppard will be picking up missions from other air force bases."

Chase pointed to a housing privatization project currently under way at Sheppard that will also be good for city growth.

The project, which will continue to unfold for the next five to seven years, will push up the demand for single family homes in Wichita Falls as it relocates families that currently live on the base into homes in the city.

The steady, controlled transition is expected to move no more than 80 families per year, Chase said.

More good news for the Wichita Falls economy: 24 months of growth in Wichita Falls' Economic Index. Real estate sales are pushing the "impressive rise," Coleman said.

Chase said the BCI is making sure there's "room to expand" for any company that wants to.

In the last seven years, Wichita Falls has absorbed 2.2 million square feet of business, including Home Depot and Best Buy. "It's an absorption rate for this market that's phenomenal," Chase said.

Wichitans also can look forward to the presence of a new business park that will soon sit at the entrance of Wichita Falls, Chase said.

The only scare in an otherwise bright picture is the negative trend in retail sales and the faster-growing online sales, Coleman said.

Dollars spent through the Internet reduce the tax dollars that would have been available to the city if the money had been spent here.

Coleman also reminded the audience of Wichita Falls' growing local Hispanic population.

"If you have no one in your organization who speaks Espanol, I would fix that real quick," Coleman said.

Times Record News began publishing Fronteras - a weekly Spanish publication - in September to address the growing Hispanic market.

Times Record News

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AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



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Only Orr gave a wait-and-see look into Wichita Falls' future. With the state Legislature stewing over how to pay for public education and the local government awash in decisions of its own, this is not the time to bring Wichita Falls voters another school bond to update local schools, he said.

"The reality is the Texas Legislature is hard at work deciding how Texas is going to pay for public services, not just schools," Orr said. "The well-being of the school district is wrapped up in decisions the Legislature makes."

Local school officials are currently revising the most recent of two school bonds that failed in the past two years. The earliest possible presentation of a new bond to voters would be September or November, Orr said.

Orr said schools in 1,000 districts across Texas need more dollars and substantial reform to do more than simply "survive 'til '05," the slogan during the last legislative session.

"We're in 2005. We've survived. But the future doesn't look terribly encouraging," Orr said.

Education reporter Ann Work can be reached at (940)763-7538 or by e-mail at [worka\(at\)TimesRecordNews.com](mailto:worka(at)TimesRecordNews.com).

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